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'DEFINITE' PLOT, DA

STATES-ITEM

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RED COMET

ORLEANS JFK AIDE QUOTED

Eyed as Pilot Of 'Getaway' Craft--Flier

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By ROSEMARY JAMES
and DAVID SNYDER

A New Orleans pilot has revealed to the States-Item that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's chief investigator said last month the DA's office has "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy."

David William Ferrie, who has a flying service here and is a part-time investigator, said Garrison and his staff are conducting an extensive investigation into the death of President John F. Kennedy and that he and some of his friends have been questioned by the DA's office.

Ferrie gave the States-Item details of why the district attorney's office became interested in him.

"Supposedly I have been pegged as the get-away pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy," he said.

Ferrie flew to Texas with two friends close to the time of the assassination.

DAVID W. FERRIE

HE CONTENDS, HOWEVER, THAT he did not go to Dallas.

Ferrie explained that in November of 1963 he was working as an investigator for New Orleans attorney G. Wray Gill, who was trying a federal court case involving Carlos Marcello.

Marcello and his brother Joseph were acquitted by a federal jury of charges that they conspired to defraud the government on the day President Kennedy was murdered.

Ferrie says he was at the federal court here that day.

The jury's verdict came in at 3:20 p.m.

Ferrie had done investigative work on the case for Gill, who was one of Marcello's attorneys.

HE SAID THAT AFTER THEY won the case, he and two friends decided to fly to Texas on a pleasure trip.

It was a spur-of-the-moment decision, Ferrie claims.

"We went to Houston, Galveston and then back to Alexandria, La.," Ferrie said.

When he returned to New Orleans, Ferrie said, he called Gill to see what was going on and Gill informed him that the district attorney's office wanted to question him

about the assassination.

FERRIE CLAIMS THAT WHILE HE WAS in Texas, 13 law officers, including Garrison and former assistant district attorney Frank Klein, broke into his home and carted off books, photographs and some other personal belongings.

"They took a substantial amount of my property to Tulane and Boad (location of the district attorney's office)," Ferrie said.

Ferrie said he gave Klein a "meticulous" accounting of his trip and then Klein had him booked as a fugitive from Texas. Ferrie said that he asked Gill to call the FBI and the Secret Service.

He said that he had interviews with both organizations and subsequently to these sessions was released by Klein.

Ferrie recently was served with a subpena to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

"I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT IT was all about," Ferrie said.

When he showed up for the grand jury call, he said

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he was intercepted at the door and asked to come up to the office of First Asst. DA Charles Ray Ward.

He was asked to go to Ward's office by chief investigator Louis Ivon. Ivon, Ferrie said, led him to an office where John Volz, a trial assistant, was already waiting.

Ferrie said Volz told him they wanted to ask him "a few questions about 1963."

According to Ferrie, he was asked to recount all of his activities on the week that President Kennedy was shot. Because he couldn't remember the events of that week, Ferrie asked if he could go to the FBI to get a copy of the statement he made immediately after the slaying.

FERRIE SAID THAT WAS THE LAST HE heard of the matter until "friends and acquaintances began calling me saying they had been questioned and, among other things, questioned about me."

Ferrie said he could not remember the exact date that he was questioned by the DA, only that it was in January, 1967.

Last month, Ferrie said, he called Ivon and was told that the office had "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy."

Ferrie contends that the FBI became interested in him after a man by the name of Ed Voble of New Orleans saw Lee Harvey Oswald on television following the slaying and told a local television station that he served with Oswald in a Civil Air Patrol unit under Ferrie.

ACTUALLY, FERRIE CLAIMS, VOBLE was in the Moi-

sant squadron and I was in the Lakefront squadron."

Ferrie denies knowing Oswald.

Asked if he thought Oswald had an accomplice, Ferrie, who has been looking into possible local tie-ins to the murder on his own, said, "I believe it would be fruitless to look for an accomplice."

Ferrie, who lists himself in the city director as a psychologist, said, "My assessment of Oswald is that he would be incapable of conspiring because he would be incapable of any interpersonal relationship, especially anything as delicate as a conspiracy to kill."

ASKED ABOUT FURTHER INVESTIGATION, Ferrie said, "I think it's an utter waste of time.

The States-Item attempted to interview Miguel Torres, a 26-year-old Cuban who formerly lived only a block from Oswald's last known address. Torres is serving three concurrent nine-year terms for burglaries in New Orleans. He was sentenced in 1964.

Torres was removed from Angola state penitentiary Jan. 30 ostensibly for the purpose of testifying in a trial on a $12 robbery case. The case was continued Jan. 31, but Torres has not been returned to Angola.

He is known to be connected with the DA's investigation.

CRIMINAL SHERIFF LOUIS HEYD gave the States-Item permission to talk to Torres and Torres was advised of his rights.

Torres, who appeared highly nervous, thought about it for a moment and then declined to answer the questions.